



De Palm Island provides an extravagant ending to 19th Annual Tourism Conference Aruba

The final event of the 19th ATCA was held on De Palm Island because of the special nature of the evening, a farewell tribute to Scott Wiggins, retiring from his position as Senior Marketing Director of AHATA. The Malmberg family of Harold, Ricky and Lisette, owners of De Palm Island spared no effort, and combined with AHATA and the ATA, no expense, in creating a magnificent event featuring a fabulous buffet from Taste of Belgium catering, and music from popular local band NBO.

After nearly 150 people greeted Scott and his wife Cash at the dock with a toast, they were able to enjoy various “living sculptures” created by island artists Maria Theresa Martinez and Timothy Charles. The theme was the various aspects of Aruban culture, including tableaux of traditional folkloric dress. Other exhibitions paid tribute to Carnival, the prehistoric population, and guests were able to chat with a statue of L.G.Smith. The gathering dined on traditional Aruban favorites with a gourmet twist, including dishes such as “Big Mama’s Soup.”

Jorge Pesquera, acting as host for the evening began by praising the planning committee of AHATA and ATA and all those that worked so hard to make the evening outstanding and memorable.

The shank of the evening was devoted to honoring Scott Wiggins, after which the Popcorn Dancers, in native dress, showed that they could also break dance with the best of them. NBO had everyone on the dance floor with classics from Carnival, and dance hits from the seventies. It was a festive and beautiful evening under the stars, with De Palm Island presenting a beautiful venue for this final night of the conference, and a fond farewell to one of the pioneers of the island’s tourism industry.